

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Obama, McCain Push Different Visions for Education Reform

09/12/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/education_9-12.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is Barack Obama's vision for education?

2. What do Obama and McCain want to do for teachers?

3. What are school vouchers?

4. What are charter schools and how do Obama and McCain differ on their proposals for charter schools?

5. How do Obama and McCain differ on the issues of whether there is enough money spent on education?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. How do the candidates' approaches to education differ?

2. Who do you agree with?

3. If you were running for president, what would you do about the nation's schools?

4. How might people's opinions about education differ depending on where they live, how old they are, how rich or poor they are?

5. Watch two recent campaign ads about education. How are the ads accurate or misleading?
<http://www.factcheck.org/>

6. Take a look at the New York Times issue guide on education
<http://elections.nytimes.com/2008/president/issues/education.html> Are you surprised by the candidates' positions and words?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.